

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: J.V. Barbera ALACREU Conf.:  
Appl. No.: **NEW** Group: 3731(Parent)  
(Divisional of Appl. No. 09/444,449)  
Filed: September 12, 2003 Examiner: Vy Q. BUI(Parent)  
For: DORSOLUMBAR AND LUMBOSACRAL VERTEBRAL  
FIXATION SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 12, 2003

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**This reply includes:**

**Amendments to the Specification;**

**Claim Set as Amended; and**

**Remarks.**